VZCZCXRO9172 PP RUEHPB DE RUEHBO #3146 2392206 ZNY CCCUU ZZH P 262206Z AUG 08 FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4373 INFO RUEHBE/AMEMBASSY BELMOPAN PRIORITY 0093 RUEHCV/AMEMBASSY CARACAS PRIORITY 0930 RUEHLP/AMEMBASSY LA PAZ PRIORITY 9635 RUEHPE/AMEMBASSY LIMA PRIORITY 6498 RUEHMD/AMEMBASSY MADRID PRIORITY 0378 RUEHMU/AMEMBASSY MANAGUA PRIORITY 2373 RUEHME/AMEMBASSY MEXICO PRIORITY 9189 RUEHOT/AMEMBASSY OTTAWA PRIORITY 2532 RUEHZP/AMEMBASSY PANAMA PRIORITY 2210 RUEHFR/AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY 1366 RUEHPB/AMEMBASSY PORT MORESBY PRIORITY 0004 RUEHQT/AMEMBASSY QUITO PRIORITY 7183 RUEHSJ/AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE PRIORITY 5045 RUEHSN/AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR PRIORITY 2173 RUEHUL/AMEMBASSY SEOUL PRIORITY 0621 RUEHKO/AMEMBASSY TOKYO PRIORITY 1243 RUEHGL/AMCONSUL GUAYAQUIL PRIORITY 4556 RUCPDOC/DEPT OF COMMERCE WASHDC PRIORITY RUEHBS/USEU BRUSSELS PRIORITY RUEHIN/AIT TAIPEI PRIORITY 0121

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TUNA COMMISSION BEHAVIOR

Classified By: Acting Econ Counselor William W. Popp for reasons 1.4(b) and (d)

- 11. (C) Gonzalo Fournier, Political and Economic Counselor for the European Commission to Colombia (EC), told Econoff that the EC, Spain, and France collectively delivered a formal demarche to the GOC condemning Colombia's behavior at the June meeting of the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC) (ref C). Fournier said EC Chief of Delegation Fernando Cardesa, together with Spanish Ambassador to Colombia Andres Collado and French Charge d'Affaires Alain Fort, met Vice-Minister of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) Camilo Reyes on August 25. Reyes said he was aware of the issue but believed it had been resolved. The group told Reyes they therefore looked forward to a more productive GOC approach at the October IATTC meeting in La Jolla.
- 12. (C) Fournier described the demarche delivered to Reyes as the "harshest" he had ever seen. Fournier told Econoff that the group felt Reyes' response had been more indicative of his desire not to discuss the issue than of an actual resolution, but it appeared clear that the GOC understood the feelings of the EC, Spain and France about the GOC's behavior at the IATTC meeting.
- 13. (C) Separately on the evening of August 25 Fournier and Cardesa had a chance encounter with Maria Andrea Alban, the MFA's Director of Economic, Social and Environmental Affairs. Alban repeated what she had told EconCouns the week before (ref A): that her office had just resumed responsibility for IATTC issues; that the GOC would be reorganizing its internal policy-making process and reviewing its IATTC position prior to the La Jolla meeting; and that, while she hoped for a more positive position, the tuna industry had increased pressure on the GOC at high levels.